



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

25 AUGUST 2020

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Orange County – Security Guard Arrested After Posing as Homeland Security Agent for Years

(U) A man who worked as a security guard at an Orange County retirement community was arrested and charged after allegedly posing as a Homeland Security agent, officials said. Donovan Pham Nguyen, 34, of Riverside, faces one count of false impersonation of a federal officer or employee. Nguyen allegedly pretended to be a special agent with Homeland Security Investigations and used the title to “obtain things of value,” according to an affidavit. He never worked for the agency but had been a privately contracted security guard at a DHS facility until 2015 when allegations surfaced that he printed fake HSI identification documents.

SOURCE: 24 August 2020, [KTLA5](#)

(U) Santa Cruz – Eight Arrested on Suspicion of Looting Homes of Wildfire Evacuees

(U) Eight people have been arrested on suspicion of looting or planning to loot neighborhoods in Santa Cruz County, Sheriff Jim Hart said. Some of the arrests came from community tips, including from residents who refused to evacuate and others who spotted suspicious activity on their home security cameras, Hart said. At least 100 officers are patrolling evacuation zones and Hart said he’s ordered his deputies to pull over any non-police or non-fire department vehicles. County District Attorney Jeffrey Rosell noted that with an emergency declaration from the governor in place, penalties are enhanced for people who steal or price gouge.

SOURCE: 23 August 2020, [San Diego Union Tribune](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Arizona – Border Patrol Seizes 100 Pounds of Methamphetamine

(U) Tucson – US Border Patrol agents arrested three Mexican nationals and seized 100 pounds of suspected methamphetamine near the village of Vaya Chin, Arizona. Tucson Sector agents encountered the three men and discovered their backpacks were filled with small packages of what appeared to be drugs. The contents subsequently tested positive for meth. The three Mexican nationals were found to be illegally present in the US and face drug related and immigration violations charges.

SOURCE: 24 August 2020, [CBP](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Texas – NASA Researcher Arrested on Charges Related to China’s Talents Program

(U) Houston – Texas A&M University (TAMU) Professor Zhengdong Cheng, 53, of College Station, has been charged with conspiracy, making false statements and wire fraud. Cheng, who led a team conducting research for NASA, allegedly for several years willfully took steps to obscure his affiliations and collaboration with a Chinese University and at least one Chinese-owned company. Cheng and TAMU received funds based on Cheng knowingly providing false information to TAMU and consequently to NASA. The charges further allege he held senior research positions there unknown to TAMU and NASA and was able to serve in the People’s Republic of China Talents program.

SOURCE: 24 August 2020, [US DOJ](#)

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) Wisconsin – Fires, Chaos Erupts for Second Night Following Police Shooting

(U) Kenosha – Chaos erupted in Kenosha overnight yesterday, into the early morning hours of Tuesday. Several businesses were burned and looted as fire crews from around the area and northern Illinois worked together to put them out. It marks the second straight night of civil unrest in Kenosha after a police shooting was caught on camera and sparked national outrage after going viral on social media. SOURCE: 25 August 2020, [CBS58](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Philippines – 14 Killed, 75 Wounded in Bomb Attacks

(U) Jolo – Islamic militants allied with ISIS set off a motorcycle explosive followed by a suicide bombing that together killed 14 people, many of them soldiers, military officials said. At least 75 soldiers, police and civilians were wounded in the midday bombings, regional military commander Lt. Gen. Corleto Vinluan said. Vinluan said most of the victims, including children, were killed and wounded in the first attack, when a bomb attached to a motorcycle exploded near two parked army trucks. A second blast, apparently from a female suicide attacker, occurred about an hour later and killed the bomber, a soldier, a police commando and wounded several others, a military report said. SOURCE: 24 August 2020, [AP News](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.

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